(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that prepaid card of BSNL is not available in Assam, more particularly in Cachar district; and

(e) whether any steps are being taken to overcome sufferings of the customers for non-availability of pre-paid cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) There are 4 (Four) licensed operators for providing mobile services in Assam Telecome Circle Services Area. Out of these, only 2 (Two) operators namely M/s Reliance Telecome Ltd. and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) have started their services in Assam. The other 2 (Two) operators namely M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd. and M/s Dishnet DSL Ltd. have not started their services as yet.

In Cachar district, mobile service of BSNL is only available. M/s Reliance have not covered this district so far. The mobile service of BSNL in Cachar including Silchar is working satisfactorily. However, congestion has been observed at some places during busy hour due to constraint in mobile network capacity. Action has been taken by BSNL to augment its mobile network capacity in Cachar district including Silchar by 16,800 lines in 2005 to ensure good quality of service.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Pre-paid mobile services has not been started by BSNL in Assam so far. The permission for providing pre-paid mobile services in Assam on experimental basis was given for three months in the month of November, 2004.

Demand of IT professionals

1710. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand for Indian IT professionals in the global market has come down in the recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would assess the requirement of IT professionals in India and abroad on annual basis so as to warn universities

and institutes that turn out a large number of IT degree holder each year to avoid producing surplus IT professionals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has no such proposal to assess the requirement of IT professionals in India and abroad on annual basis.

Revision of monthly rents of MTNL and BSNL

1711. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering upward revision of the monthly rental of MTNL and BSNL fixed line telephones, increasing call charges and reduction of free calls; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal either in MTNL or BSNL.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Development of basic infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh

†1712. SHRI PYRELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of India's share in the global I.T. business alongwith the target thereof in furture;

(b) whether it is a fact that challenegs in this sector have tremendoulsy increased;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.